



March 20, 2019

Senator Steve Cassano, Co-Chair  
Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Co-Chair  
Planning and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

RE: HB7192 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
AND EFFICIENCIES

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs Cassano and McCarthy Vahey, and Members of the Planning and  
Development Committee:

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) wishes to express its  
opposition to specific actions detailed in HB7192 (LCO # 4575) entitled: AN ACT  
CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND  
EFFICIENCIES. The Council believes many of the legislative proposals contained in this bill  
could have significant impacts on the Council of Governments and State's municipalities and  
should be fully analyzed to ensure their effectiveness prior to implementation.

Section 4-66k, subsection (d), of this bill addresses the Regional Services Grant (RSG) funding  
provided annually to each Council of Government by the State of Connecticut. The formula  
proposed in subsection (d) equates to a reduction of approximately 50% over the funding levels  
granted to the COGS in FY 2019. While the Council appreciates the bills intent to move RSG  
funding from an appropriation to a tax diversion, the proposed reduction would have significant  
impacts on the services currently being provided by MetroCOG to each member municipality.  
The services impacted include, but are not limited to, the ability to leverage more than \$500,000  
in Transportation Planning funds administered by the Federal Highway Administration, local  
planning and land use technical assistance, regional zoning referrals, grant writing technical  
assistance, environmental planning, GIS technical assistance, and hazard mitigation and coastal  
resilience planning. MetroCOG believes RSG grant-in-aid funding should be equal to that  
provided in FY19.

Section 13 addresses the regionalization of property revaluation, assessment and tax collection  
for municipalities with fewer than 15,000 parcels of real property. MetroCOG believes the  
creation of regional services can provide increased efficiency and cost savings but HB7192 does

not contain enough detailed information to fully assess the merits of this proposal. First, there is no analysis of the actual costs savings to each municipality through the implementation of this legislation nor a meaningful discussion how the proposal will create efficiencies or improve existing services. Additionally, the Council has concern regarding the effect this proposal has on appropriate controls and segregation of duties, specifically as it relates to municipal tax assessors and tax collectors. Finally, MetroCOG believes any proposal to consolidate existing services should leverage digital technology to reduce the processing and storage of paper documents.

MetroCOG believes the intent of HB 7192 is admirable and may have many positive impacts on the local, regional and state levels, however, many proposals contained in this proposal need additional analysis in order to fully understand their local and regional impact. The Council supports the effort to increase efficiency and reduce municipal costs through the regionalization of certain services, but not without a more thorough benefit/cost analysis that supports the concept. MetroCOG and its member municipalities look forward to the opportunity to continue these important discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Fulda', with a stylized, flowing script.

Matthew Fulda  
Executive Director, MetroCOG